

Border Eagle

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July 8, 2005

Deployed XLers perform TCN escort duties

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. Cheryl Toner
380th Expeditionary Wing
public affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- "This may be the most important job you ever do," the escort security program manager tells his third-country-national escorts upon their arrival to this area of responsibility.

While everyone has an important job -- otherwise jobs wouldn't be filled -- extra precautions at any base in the Middle East are preventive actions, designed to alleviate the likelihood that something like the 1996 Khobar Towers bombing never happens again.

CENTCOM officials explained the need for escorts, noting that if there were no escorts, the military would have to deploy more people. After all, if there are no contractors to build a new runway or take out the trash, the military would have to deploy someone to do it. Considering there about 60 escorts here and more than 1,000 TCNs on base daily, the trade-off is obviously well worth it.

One myth people may have about TCN escorts is that there is some reason the Airmen are getting "pulled" from their Air Force specialties ... and that the reason is not good. "This is



Airman 1st Class Amanda Spinner, deployed from here, sits in a solitary post -- a 20-foot wooden tower with no air conditioning -- as she watches third country nationals pour concrete for the new runway in a deployed location. Escorts are pulled from their Air Force specialties to work in concert with security forces and ensure there is no unauthorized access to bases.

not true at all," said Senior Master Sgt. Arthur "Flea" Flecker, the program manager, deployed since January 2005 from the 459th Civil Engineering Squadron, Andrews AFB, Md. "These guys are great, and they're motivated."

To that end, precautions are taken

here daily; however, the process isn't too exciting. As a matter of fact, it's pretty boring. Nobody would envy Airman 1st Class Amanda Spinner as she sits in her solitary post -- a 20-foot

See 'Deployment,' page 5

Bush: 'As Iraqis stand up, we will stand down,'

By **John D. Banusiewicz**
American Forces
Press Service

On the one-year anniversary of the transfer of sovereignty in Iraq to a transitional Iraqi government, President Bush promised U.S. forces would remain in Iraq until the job is complete, "but not one day longer."

In a nationally televised speech at Fort Bragg, N.C., the president cited progress in Iraq and emphasized that the best way to complete the mission is to help the Iraqi people build a free

nation they can govern and defend themselves.

"The principal task of our military is to find and defeat the terrorists," he said, "and that is why we are on the offense. And as we pursue the terrorists, our military is helping to train Iraqi security forces so that they can defend their people and fight the enemy on their own. Our strategy can be summed up this way: As the Iraqis stand up, we will stand down."

More than 160,000 Iraqi security forces are now trained and equipped, President Bush said. Some, he said, are capable of operating indepen-

dently, and others now are experienced enough to plan and execute anti-terrorist operations with coalition support. Some units are still forming, the president said, and the task of training them continues with three new approaches.

"First, we are partnering coalition units with Iraqi units," he explained. "These coalition-Iraqi teams are conducting operations together in the field. These combined operations are giving Iraqis a chance to experience how the most professional armed forces in the

See 'Bush,' page 4

Newslines

Blood drive today

The American Red Cross is sponsoring a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today in their mobile unit at the Fiesta Center parking lot. Each donor will receive a baseball cap.

For details, call Jane Pratt at 298-6315.

Thrift shop open, moving

The thrift shop in building 301 will remain open for business through July. Consignments will be accepted through July 15, on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon.

In August, the thrift shop will move into the old gym, building 358.

For details, call 298-5592 or 298-2071.

Quarterly awards lunch

A quarterly awards lunch is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. July 27 at Club XL. For details, contact unit representatives or call Senior Master Sgt. Elijah Hussey at 298-5703.

Deployment stats

Deployed:	61
Returning in 30 days:	1
Deploying in 30 days:	0

Mission status

Mission capable rate
(As of Tuesday)

T-1, 81.1%	T-38A, 78.9%
T-6, 90.0%	T-38C, 79.7%

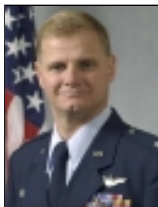
Alcohol-related incidents

January to July 2004 8

Jan. 1 to July 7, 2005 15

Days since last incident 5

Ask yourself: ‘Am I a role model?’



Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. Russ Mack
87th Flying Training Squadron
commander

I recently finished reading the book “American Soldier” by retired Gen. Tommy Franks, former commander of the United States Central Command, which chronicled his life as a military officer. In one particular part of the book, he reflected back on many lessons he learned as a young officer.

One lesson that stuck out the most in his mind was that... “Junior officers and non-commissioned officers are the backbone of the Army...and the good ones are true examples and role models for everyone to emulate.”

This didn’t strike me as odd because we all know being a member of the military also means being a “role model” for others... whether on or off duty. But what does being a “role model” *really* mean?

Having worn the uniform for more than 17 years myself, I thought the answer to this question was straightforward... we simply live our lives as spelled out in our Air Force Core Values...Service Before Self, Integrity First, and Excellence in All We Do.

These core values can be applied to any and everything we do, both on and off-duty. And as members of the military, we not only *need* to live by these values, we are expected to.

As a senior captain, I was a member of the U.S. Air Force Aerial Demonstration Squadron, the “Thunderbirds,” and was

considered by many an “Ambassador in Blue” and a “role model” for our Air Force. Although I had the opportunity to fly a red, white and blue F-16 all over the world, speaking to schools and organizations, and representing the fantastic men and women of our Air Force, I would argue I was no more a “role model” than any other Airman who dons the uniform day after day.

Each and every one of us is a role model. We represent our Air Force, and we each play a vital part in the success of our mission -- from the most junior to the most senior Air Force leaders -- we are all “role models.”

I am sure at this point, none of what you’ve read is new or surprising. We live our daily lives through our Core Values and would give our lives defending the freedom America stands for.

All of this is easy to say because we live it,...but I recently read an excerpt from a column written by Bill Stein (a renowned Hollywood writer) in the New York Times that described his perspective and solidified for me what a “role model” is.

A few of the things he wrote were:

“I no longer think Hollywood stars are terribly important. They are uniformly pleasant, friendly people, and they treat me better than I deserve to be treated. But a man or woman who makes a huge wage for memorizing lines and reciting them in front of a camera is no longer my idea of a role model we should all look up to...”

“A real role model is the U.S. soldier who was sent to disarm a

bomb next to a road north of Baghdad. He approached it, and the bomb went off and killed him...”

“A real role model is the U.S. soldier in Baghdad who saw a little girl playing with a piece of unexploded ordnance on a street

near where he was guarding a station. He pushed her aside and threw himself on it just as it exploded. He

left a family desolate in California and a little girl alive in Baghdad...”

“The stars who deserve media attention are not the ones who have lavish weddings on TV but the ones who patrol the streets of Mosul even after two of their buddies were killed trying to protect Iraqis from terrorists.”

A different perspective, but one that is spot on...America is at war, and the American people expect us to live and die to protect the very freedoms we enjoy each and every day living in the United States. I challenge each of you to evaluate your role in supporting the greatest Air Force in the world and ask yourself the simple question... “Am I a role model?”

General Franks and Bill Stein are absolutely right...the backbone of our military is our NCOs and junior officers...and we are all “role models” for others to emulate.

And for what it is worth...in my mind a real role model is someone whose life is lived to help others and is the only one that matters.

This is my highest and best use as a human. As military members we do this day in and day out. We are role models.

Accept that responsibility... our country depends on it.

“I challenge each of you to evaluate your role in supporting the greatest Air Force in the world and ask yourself the simple question. ‘Am I a role model?’”

Border Eagle

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Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil or sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil.

Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander

Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil



One way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels is the Commander's Actionline.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

When calling or e-mailing the Actionline, please keep messages brief and remember to include your name and phone number so you are assured of a timely personal reply. Contact information is also useful when additional information is needed to pursue your inquiry.

We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Chapel	298-5111
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Contracting	298-5439
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
Finance	298-5204
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

"Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America's wars."

— 47th Flying
Training Wing
mission statement

Jumper stresses spiritual strength, core values**Sight Picture**

By Gen. John P. Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

Our lives changed when we took the oath to defend our nation and put on the uniform of an Airman. But what was that change? Was it merely symbols — uniform, rank, and badges? No, it was a transformation from whoever we were before to someone vested in higher order values, a transformation into a part of something bigger than ourselves.

We come from all walks of life, from every part of our Nation. We are different people from diverse backgrounds and with our diversity we bring different sets of values. We have different hopes and aspirations, different goals and different beliefs. It is perhaps our Nation's greatest strength that, since its founding, we can stand shoulder to shoulder with people of different origins and beliefs for a single purpose — to serve.

As part of our service in the United States Air Force we are expected to embrace its core values: Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do. These values are a guide that binds us together, even as we fight for the right to be different in so many other ways. We use the word "Core" because we expect these values to be fundamental to our service, to guide our commitment to our country and our mission, and to serve as a test

for the decisions we make in both our personal and professional lives. Our commitment to these core values means that they are more than just words posted on a wall or recited by rote. They reside in the front row of our daily lives to help us wrestle with our toughest decisions and to guide us on our path of service as Airmen.

At our Air Force Academy, we have experienced issues with expressions of religious beliefs and with perceptions that one set of beliefs is favored over others. Remember 'Service Before Self.'

Religion is intensely per-

sonal and disagreements can detract from the teamwork necessary for Air Force units.

In particular, sharing personal beliefs in a professional setting, one where leaders are performing their duties in a chain of command or in a superior-subordinate relationship, can easily become improper influence about personal matters.

Furthermore, it can be resented. A friend of mine recently expressed it this way: "The core task of every leader in the profession of arms is uniting his or her people into a strong team, with levels of trust and commitment so high the unit keeps working well even under extreme pressure. Everyone in a unit contributes to that task."

Anything that detracts from that teamwork ultimately detracts from the mission.

What does this mean about how leaders should approach spiritual strength? Spiritual

strength is an integral part of leadership. Our greatest leaders are able to elevate the human spirit and inspire extraordinary performance. Spiritual strength is what drives us to make sacrifices for others, for our Nation, and for the greater good. For some, a commitment to a specific religious faith is a source for that spiritual strength, but not for all. For some, it is their heritage and the experience of a community of people within our human family. For others, it is the way they were touched as individuals by a family member, teacher, or leader's work of faith or charity. As we stress our core value of 'Service Before Self,' we see spiritual strength as its foundation, whether or not an individual sees himself or herself as religious.

Faith and religious freedom were fundamental to the founding of this Nation.

Chaplaincy is part of our profession of arms and have a unique charter: to minister to those who share their specific faith, to facilitate ministry to those of other faiths, and to care for all -- including those whose spiritual strength does not come from religious belief. Our chaplains should set the example for mutual respect among different faiths and beliefs -- Service Before Self.

There will be more specific guidance about expressions of personal religious beliefs.

This guidance will emphasize mutual respect and the wingman culture fundamental to all Airmen.

The expression of personal preferences to subordinates, especially in a professional setting or at mandatory events, is inappropriate.

More importantly, we should always be guided by our Core Values. That's what makes us the superb Airmen that we are.

“As we stress our core value of ‘Service Before Self,’ we see spiritual strength as its foundation, whether or not an individual sees himself or herself as religious. Faith and religious freedom were fundamental to the founding of this Nation.”

Bush, from page 1

world operate in combat.”

The second approach has coalition transition teams living, working and fighting together with their Iraqi comrades, Bush said. “Under U.S. command, they’re providing battlefield advice and assistance to Iraqi forces during combat operations. Between battles, they are assisting the Iraqis with important skills, such as urban combat and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance techniques.”

The third approach involves working with the Iraqi ministries of interior and defense to improve their capabilities to coordinate anti-terrorist operations. “We’re helping them develop command-and-control structures,” Bush said. “We’re also providing them with civilian and military leadership training so Iraq’s new leaders can effectively manage their forces in the fight against terror.”

Some 2,000 Iraqi security forces have died in the line of duty, the president pointed out. “Iraqi forces have fought bravely helping to capture terrorists and insurgents in Najaf and Samarra, Fallujah and Mosul,” he said. “In the past month, Iraqi forces have led a major anti-terrorist campaign in Baghdad called Operation Lightning which has led to the capture of hundreds of suspected insurgents. Like free people everywhere, Iraqis want to be defended by their own countrymen, and we are helping Iraqis assume those duties.

“The progress in the past year has been significant,” he said, “and we have a clear path forward.”

Acknowledging that the mission in Iraq is “difficult and dangerous,” Bush said the mission also is clear. “We’re hunting down the terrorists. We’re helping Iraqis build a free nation that is an ally in the war on terror. We’re advancing freedom in the broader Middle East. We are removing a source of violence and instability and laying the foundation of peace for our children and our grandchildren.”

Bush said that like all Americans, he sees “horrificing” images of the war. “And the suffering is real,” he said.

“Some of the violence you see in Iraq is being carried out by ruthless killers who are converging on Iraq to fight the advance of peace and free-

dom,” the president said. “Our military reports that we have killed or captured hundreds of foreign fighters in Iraq who have come from Saudi Arabia, and Syria, Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Libya, and others. They are making common cause with criminal elements, Iraqi insurgents and remnants of Saddam Hussein’s regime who want to restore the old order.”

And the enemy, he said, is brutal.

“We see the nature of the enemy in terrorists who exploded car bombs along a busy shopping street in Baghdad, including one outside a mosque,” he said. “We see the nature of the enemy in terrorists who sent a suicide bomber to a teaching hospital in Mosul. We see the nature of the enemy in terrorists who behead civilian hostages and broadcast their atrocities for the world to see.”

But “savage acts of violence,” President Bush noted, have not brought

the terrorists any closer to achieving their strategic objectives.

“The terrorists, both foreign and Iraqi, failed to stop the transfer of sovereignty,” he said. “They failed to break our coalition and force a mass withdrawal by our allies. They failed to incite an Iraqi civil war. They failed to prevent free elections. They failed to stop the formation of a democratic Iraqi government that represents all of Iraq’s diverse population, and they failed to stop Iraqis from signing up in large number with the police forces and the army to defend their new democracy.”

Bush noted that Libya has abandoned its designs on nuclear and chemical weapons, and that steps toward freedom and democracy are taking place in the Middle East. “Our strategy to defend ourselves and spread freedom is working,” he said. “The rise of freedom in this vital re-

gion will eliminate the conditions that feed radicalism and ideologies of murder and make our nation safer.”

Though much has been accomplished, much remains to be done, Bush said.

“We have more work to do, and there will be tough moments that test America’s resolve,” he said. “We’re fighting against men with blind hatred and armed with lethal weapons who are capable of any atrocity. They wear no uniform. They respect no laws of warfare or morality. They take innocent lives to create chaos for the cameras. They are trying to shake our will in Iraq, just as they tried to shake our will on Sept. 11, 2001.

“They will fail,” he continued. “The terrorists do not understand America. The American people do not falter under threat. And we will not allow our future to be determined by car bombers and assassins.”

Air Force photos

Well done troops...

Master Sgt. Ricardo Ramirez, 47th SFS first sergeant, receives a handshake from Chief Master Sgt. David Popp, Air Combat Command, after receiving a coin from the chief for a job well done. Sergeant Ramirez is deployed to Iraq in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

(Left to right) Senior Airman Matthew Baker, 47th Security Forces Squadron; Maj. Gen. Norman Seip, then deputy commander of the 9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task

Force, Air Combat Command, Southwest Asia; and Staff Sgts. Timothy Bartlett and Spencer Duclos, also of the 47th SFS, pose for a photo before giving General Seip a demonstration flight and briefing on the mission of the Force Protection Aerial Surveillance System, named “Desert Hawk,” at Al Dafra Air Base, United Arab Emirate. Desert Hawk is a tactical level imagery platform used for perimeter detection and surveillance of the surface-to-air missile footprint around a base.





Photo by Capt. Paula Kurtz

Celebration of Independence...

Members of Laughlin’s honor guard lead the Del Rio Independence Day parade with the honorable Pete Gallegos, Mayor Dora Alcala and Col. Tod Wolters, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, close behind Monday.

Deployment, from page 1

wooden tower with no air conditioning – as she watches TCNs pour concrete for the new runway here. It’s practically the equivalent of watching paint dry as the merciless sun moves across the sky.

“It’s an awful lot of lonely work,” said Sergeant Flecker. “Rarely do you see more than two escorts together.”

Watching someone work “may seem menial,” he said however, he also tells the more than 60 Airmen here that their jobs are vital to the livelihood of everyone here. The necessary program pulls normal jobs; however, Sergeant Flecker said a lot of the escorts like the change.

Airman Spinner, who is deployed from Laughlin, typically works inside on medical administrative issues. “I like being outside,” she said. She also said she likes the different experience and feels the program has given her a “more well-rounded” view of the Air Force.

Airman 1st Class Katrina Wells, who is also deployed from Laughlin, said she volunteered to deploy. A 2004 high school graduate with less than a year in the Air Force, Airman Wells said, “I learned how to work with people from

different bases.”

Senior Airman Rudolph Spencer, deployed from the 305th Communications Squadron at McGuire AFB, N.J., said he has “respect for other people’s jobs in the Air Force,” however, he said he’d rather deploy in his career field. “The conditions are better,” he said. Most people would probably agree if they had to stand outside all day in the desert.

While most Airmen enjoy the break from their typical Air Force duties, events such as the recent U-2 crash pull Airmen back to what the Air Force first trained them to do.

Airman Spinner and four other escorts helped the clinic for five days, doing double shifts.

“These guys are great,” said Sergeant Flecker, who not only speaks of the escorts, but also of 380th Expeditionary Security Forces members. Since force protection is their No.1 priority, Sergeant Flecker said the escorts and security forces work together. “We’re all interlinked,” he said. “We can handle about 90 percent of the issues on our own, but we call the security forces for the other 10 percent.”

60th anniversary of World War II celebrated

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- In honor of World War II veterans marking their 60th Anniversary, the World War II Airpower Committee hosted a commemoration ceremony at Arlington Cemetery June 30.

The Air Force chief of staff honored airpower contributions to World War II during the ceremony by placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

"It's my pleasure to be here to recognize the veterans we honor through this ceremony," said Gen. John P. Jumper. "Back in 1941, there was no Air Force. And today we recognize all the contributions of the men and women who were associated with airpower."

Retired Lt. Col. William Czabaranek, who served as a bombardier, and Phyllis "Toby" Felker, who served as a Women's Airforce Service Pilot, accompanied General Jumper in the wreath-laying event.

"I was very fortunate and loved being able to fly back then," said Ms. Felker. "Being a part of today's event, I was overcome with patriotism again, just like it was 60 years ago."

An Air Combat Command Heritage Flight team conducted a flyover.



Photos by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

A member of the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard renders honors at Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknowns June 30 during a ceremony commemorating airpower and the 60th anniversary of World War II.

The four-ship formation included an F-15 Eagle, F-16 Fighting Falcon, A-10 Thunderbolt II and a vintage World War II P-51 Mustang.

The event moved to the Women in Military Service for America Memorial where General Jumper presented the World War II Honorable Service Lapel Pin, referred to as the Ruptured Duck because of its design,

to the following veterans: retired Brig. Gen. George Bartlett, a Marine who served as a navigator-bombardier on B-25 bombers; Lorraine Rodgers, a WASP; Chester Buck, a staff sergeant who served as a crew chief; and retired Lt. Col. Lee A. "Buddy" Archer, the only confirmed Tuskegee Airman ace.

The Ruptured Duck insignia was

issued to any World War II veteran who was honorably discharged between Sep. 8, 1939 and Dec. 31, 1946.

"I did receive one in 1941," General Bartlett said. "This was a great honor for me to be here to represent marine aviation and all the aviators."

World War II veterans in attendance included members of the Air Force Association, 10th Fighter Squadron Association, 459th Airlift Association, 756th Tank Battalion Association, Congressional Medal of Honor Society, Jewish War Veterans, Legion of Valor, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Tuskegee Airmen, Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II, Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, and Women's Army Corps.

General Jumper thanked all the veterans in attendance for their service and gave them a statement for the future of air power.

"All of you of World War II; you were indeed, and are indeed, the greatest generation," said General Jumper. "You saved the world from a future that we don't even dare contemplate because it would have been so terrible. But I want you to know that the current generation of young people is no less patriotic or dedicated than any generation that has ever served. We should all be very proud of that. I know I am."



(Left) Air Force Chief Of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper pins the World War II Honorable Service Lapel Pin on Staff Sgt. Chester Buck June 30 during a reception for World War II veterans, active duty members, family and friends which followed a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknowns. The ceremony commemorated airpower and the 60th anniversary of World War II. A lapel pin was issued to service men and women who were about to leave the military with an honorable discharge. Sergeant Buck served as a crew chief during World War II.

(Right) During a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknowns June 30, Air Force Chief Of Staff General John P. Jumper joined World War II veterans and the public in commemorating airpower and the 60th anniversary of World War II.



Web site delivers high-tech, hands-on health education

By 1st Lt. Ellen Harr
59th Medical Wing
public affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE -- Making the transition to a healthier lifestyle can make the difference between life and death for patients with cardiovascular disease.

Through detailed illustrations, testimonials from other patients and other cutting-edge technologies, the CardioConnection website takes patient education well beyond the doctor's office. The site gives patients access

to comprehensive health education tools from their home computers.

"The site helps patients take a look at cardiac risk factors and learn how to minimize them," said Sandra Black, a cardiac rehabilitation coordinator with the 759th Surgical Operations Squadron at Wilford Hall Medical Center here. "It also helps provide them with valuable skills for lifelong health."

The CardioConnection site was created by the Air Force's Center for Excellence in Medical Multimedia and

features 3-D animations of cardiac-related symptoms and procedures, personal testimonials from patients and heart-healthy dietary tips.

"It is by far the best educational resource for patients with cardiovascular diseases that I have ever seen," said Maj. (Dr.) Richard Krasuski, staff cardiologist and director of cardiovascular research with the 759th SOS. "It also appears to help them make the necessary lifestyle changes to get healthier."

The Cardiac Rehabilitation Program at Wilford Hall averages 60 to 75 visits per


week, so the information provided by CardioConnection is the perfect complement to the educational counseling patients receive during their appointments, Ms. Black said.

"It reinforces all that information (we provide during face-to-face patient education). The quality of the videos is great," Ms. Black said.

"They are really professionally done, and they feature patients who have experienced the same things they are going through," she added.

For more details visit the CardioConnection Web at www.cardioconnection.org.

**Interested
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Force?**



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about it!**

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and Driving**



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Drive.**

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good ideas with
money.
Check out the IDEA
Program data
system at
[https://ideas.
randolph.af.mil](https://ideas.randolph.af.mil) or
call
Tech. Sgt.
Thomas Mayo at
298-4355.**

Air Force requires environmental training

By Kathy White
Public Affairs

All employees here must complete Environmental Management System Awareness Training before June 30, 2006.

The training is available online, but for those without access to a computer at work, CE’s environmental flight has training sessions at 8-8:30 a.m. and 3:30-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday in Anderson Hall. This will be the only mass training offered this year.

Computer training can be accessed two ways. The first is through AFCEE Web University at <http://webu.brooks.af.mil/webu>, or through the AF Portal if a .mil computer is available.

A third option is unit mass training using the AFCEE Web University site.

Students and people here in temporary duty status are exempt.

ESOHC members, EMS cross-functional team members, unit environmental coordinators, environmental staff and owners of processes with significant environmental aspects must complete the initial training by July 31.

Information about who must be trained and by when is online at <https://home.laughlin.af.mil/>. Click on “Policy Letters.” Once there, look for the policy letter titled “Environmental Management System Awareness Training.” The information attached to the policy letter also explains how to log on to the computer-based training.

For more information, please call the environment flight at 298-5094.

86th FTS Rio Lobos host Laughlin’s newest ‘pilot’

By Master Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public affairs

Abel Rodriguez walked with pride through the halls of the 86th Flying Training Squadron Rio Lobos. He had just put on his flight suit with his name tag and squadron patch and was given a cap and scarf symbolizing his status as Laughlin’s newest “pilot.”

The Del Rio youth, along with his mother and three local social workers, visited Laughlin June 29 as part of the “Pilot for a Day” program. He was the seventh child to participate in the program since it began here in October 2003.

The program provides disabled or terminally ill children and their families a tour of the base and lets them experience Air Force flying operations firsthand. Abel’s condition consists of having one side of his body smaller than the other, and he has a speech delay.

“It’s amazing and very nice for Laughlin to do this for children,” said Janet Rodriguez, Abel’s mother. “He has been looking forward to this ever since he found out. He was excited about coming out here to see the airplanes.”

His mother describes him as a friendly and loving kid. And that was evident as the 8-year-old had no problem acquainting himself with

squadron members. He made an effort to greet every squadron member he came in contact with.

The social workers visiting with Abel said the visit was “fitting because he has so much love to share.”

Upon arriving to base, Abel was met by 1st Lt. Daniel Arneson of the 86th FTS. Lieutenant Arneson planned and coordinated the visit.

Abel began his day by meeting Lt. Col. Frank Van Horn, the 86th FTS commander. He ate breakfast and met other squadron members as he toured the building. Afterward, he headed off to the flight line where a T-1A Jayhawk was sitting with his name painted on the aircraft’s frame.

After getting a view from inside and posing near the aircraft for pictures, Abel visited the air traffic control tower to watch aircraft take off. He then visited security forces to watch a police dog demonstration and toured the fire station and T-1 and T-6 simulators.

“It seemed like Abel really enjoyed the T-1 simulator,” said Lieutenant Arneson. “He also had a great time at the fire station spraying water and running the sirens on the fire trucks.”

Ms. Rodriguez thanked Laughlin for inviting her and organizing the day for Abel. “He loved it and had lots of fun,” she said.



Photos by Jose Mendoza

Abel Rodriguez, Laughlin’s seventh Pilot for a Day participant, sits in the cockpit of a T-1 aircraft June 29. Rodriguez spent the day with the 86th Flying Training Squadron touring the squadron and learning about Laughlin’s flying operations.

Lieutenant Arneson said everyone was excited to meet Abel.

“It was an awesome experience getting to know Abel,” he said. “He and his mom got a taste of life at Laughlin, and I am lucky to have been the one to show him what we do here. Abel was on top of the world with his visit here. He was very excited to meet everyone and see all the airplanes.”

Lieutenant Arneson said that a

lot of work goes into coordinating the Pilot for a Day program, but the support from the wing is amazing.

“Everyone is very interested in the program and willing to help any way they can,” he said. “Abel is a great little guy, and I’m thankful for having this day to meet and spend time with him. This day was the day of a lifetime for Abel, and I’m blessed to be the one who gave it to him.”



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi A. Owolabi



Airman 1st Class Daniel Molina-Gonzalez
47th Mission Support Squadron

Hometown: Palm Bay, Fla.

Family: Youngest of three brothers, one younger sister, and two loving parents

Time at Laughlin: 8 months

Time in service: One year

Greatest accomplishment: Finishing high school in three years instead of four

Hobbies: Drawing, performing, dancing, working on vehicles, surfing, sled-ding, and doing anything else that interests me

Bad habit: Nothing that I’m

aware of

Favorite movies: “Monty Python’s Search for the Holy Grail,” “Office Space,” all of the Matrix and Star Wars movies, “100 Women,” “Mouse Hunt,” “The Pest,” “Awakenings,” “Memento,” “Enter the Dragon,” “Game of Death” and “The One”

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My former Tae Kwon Do instructor -- He has shown me the great-

ness in martial arts and how it encompasses life and all of its heavenly glory simply by not limiting yourself by what society has put in front of us

“Airman 1st Class Molina-Gonzalez is a superb model for all Airmen because of his dedication to customs and courtesies, his job, and the customer.”

- 2nd Lt. Heather Street,
47th Mission Support Squadron



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike Buytas



Photos by Airman 1st Class Olufemi A. Owolabi

In February, then Senior Airman, Keith Combass and his dog, 'Brix' (Middle), step into an unaccustomed role and join Task Force 1041 Airmen patrolling a village near Balad Air Base, Iraq. Patrolling "outside the wire" is a job Soldiers normally do. But these security forces troops were on patrol for four months.

K-9 Airman returns to active duty after 10-year separation

By Airman 1st Class
Olufemi Owolabi
Editor

Trading battle dress uniforms for business suits was a weighty decision as proven by a K-9 Airman here who made a journey away and then back to the Air Force.

After more than 10 years of separation from active duty, it became apparent to him there are a lot of differences and benefits to being in the Air Force.

Staff Sgt. Keith Combass, 47th Security Forces Squadron, came into the Air Force in 1988 as a law enforcement specialist, now known as security forces Airmen.

"When I came in, I volunteered to be a K-9 Airman," said Sergeant Combass. "This is one of the differences between the Air Force K-9 unit then and now. In today's Air Force, K-9 Airmen are chosen later in their career or when they become senior Airmen or staff sergeants. That's when they can volunteer."

The decision to separate may be a personal one, but Airmen need time to properly prepare for the challenges.

Just like one researches joining the Air Force, they must research everything involved in leaving.

Sergeant Combass served 5 years on active duty before separating from the Air Force in January 1994.

"Then, I was a senior Airman at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington D.C., with a wife and a baby, and I found the financial burden pretty uncomfortable after moving from my first duty assignment in Germany to Washington D.C."

After separating from the Air Force, he worked as a police officer for 10 years.

Though Sergeant Combass has experience working in the Sheriff's Department, he said the difference when it comes to the Air Force benefits and training cannot be overruled.

"The Air Force prepared me really well for that job, in terms of military bearing and training. The training I received from the Air Force and retaining my Air Force Reserve status aided me during my career as a police officer," he said.

Furthermore, he highlighted some differences he found after a decade's journey with civilian law enforcement.

Using the Air Force promotion system as an example, Sergeant Combass said, "People get hired or promoted in civilian law enforcement due to their relationship with their



(Above) Staff Sgt. Keith Combass describes, using 'Cash,' how a military working dog is trained during a base tour here Thursday.

(Left) Sergeant Combass demonstrates to Del Rio members how a military working dog apprehends a suspect during a base tour here Thursday.

commander. In the military (Air Force), I think we have enough checks and balances. We know there is an opportunity for us to test and get promoted if we study and pass."

He added that the Air Force works better and recognizes people whenever they do an outstanding job.

"In the police department where I worked, if you did a good job, no one would recognize or reward you."

A time came after Sept. 11, 2001, when military fall-out money affected Sergeant Combass' police department and workers. Their health insurance and overtime hours were taken away.

He then began to wonder how he and his family were going to be taken care of. He said at that moment he remembered an organization that takes care of its people and encourages, promotes and recognizes quality members... the Air Force.

Sergeant Combass returned to active duty in October 2003 after working as a civilian law enforcement agent.

"With the Air Force, my family is taken care of and I can

achieve my personal goal of completing my degree," Sergeant Combass added. "Even when I am deployed, I know my family is being taken care of."

The K-9 sergeant said, after returning to the Air Force, he has seen a lot of tremendous and positive changes in his unit and in the Air Force such as communication and the electronic mailing system, and emphasis placed on deployment, among others.

Sergeant Combass describes his journey in, out, and back to Air Force active duty as successful and coupled with enormous experience, despite the challenges.

He said being in and out of the military, he has seen the difference which makes him appreciate the quality of people the military and the Air Force abound in.

"I respect my fellow servicemembers a lot. If I am privileged to work as a policeman somewhere, I want to be a policeman in the U.S. Air Force," Sergeant Combass said.

Moseley confirmation hearing held

By Master Sgt.
Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- The Air Force chief of staff nominee testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee here June 29.

“I am deeply humbled and honored to be here,” Gen. T. Michael Moseley said. “I truly appreciate the enormity and responsibility of the office of chief of staff of the Air Force.”

General Moseley, the current Air Force vice chief of staff, said it is a humbling experience to look down the path of history and see the faces of the people who have held this position before him.

“If confirmed as the next chief of staff, I will wake up every morning and pledge to do all in my power to live up to their legacy,” he said. “Today, I am incredibly proud to be a member of an Air Force family that has over 28,000

Airmen deployed in every continent and every zone in a true joint environment alongside Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Merchant Marines.”

General Moseley said his priorities will be to further refine and improve joint warfighting skills, continue to strengthen the Air Force’s greatest asset -- its people -- and to recapitalize the aging aircraft fleet to meet future warfighting needs.

“Our people are our greatest asset and every day they serve without asking for much,” he said.

The senators asked General Moseley about acquisition reform and the challenges he and the Air Force face in light of the religious-respect issue at the Air Force Academy.

Besides fighting the war on terrorism and taking care of Airmen, General Moseley said these two issues would

be a top priority. “One of the pillars of our society in this great country is religious freedom and the freedom to practice one’s faith and spirituality,” he said.

“It is unsatisfactory to have (cadets) feel that (they) cannot practice their faith or somehow believe they are disadvantaged because of their faith,” he added.

General Moseley said too many people were taken out of the oversight role in the acquisition process during the Air Force’s downsizing.

“My pledge to you, the committee and my Air Force is ... to get the right people back into this process,” he said. “This is so critical to the recapitalization and modernization of the Air Force that we have to do this right.”

The Armed Services Committee approved the nomination for General Moseley to become the secretary of the Air Force



Laughlin
Salutes

SUPT Class 05-11
awards

Daedalian award:
Capt. Joshua Panis

**Academic awards, airlift/
tanker track:**
2nd Lt. Nicholas Laplant

**Academic award, fighter/
bomber track:**
1st Lt. Matthew Woodfield
2nd Lt. Alan Wilkes

**Flying training award,
fighter/bomber track:**
2nd Lt. Aaron Steffanus

**Flying training award,
airlift/tanker track:**
2nd Lt. Jonathan Flowers

Citizenship award:
2nd Lt. Jeremy Regans

**AETC Commander’s Tro-
phy, fighter/bomber
track:**
2nd Lt. Aaron Steffanus

**AETC Commander’s
Trophy, airlift/tanker
track:**
2nd Lt. Jonathan Flowers

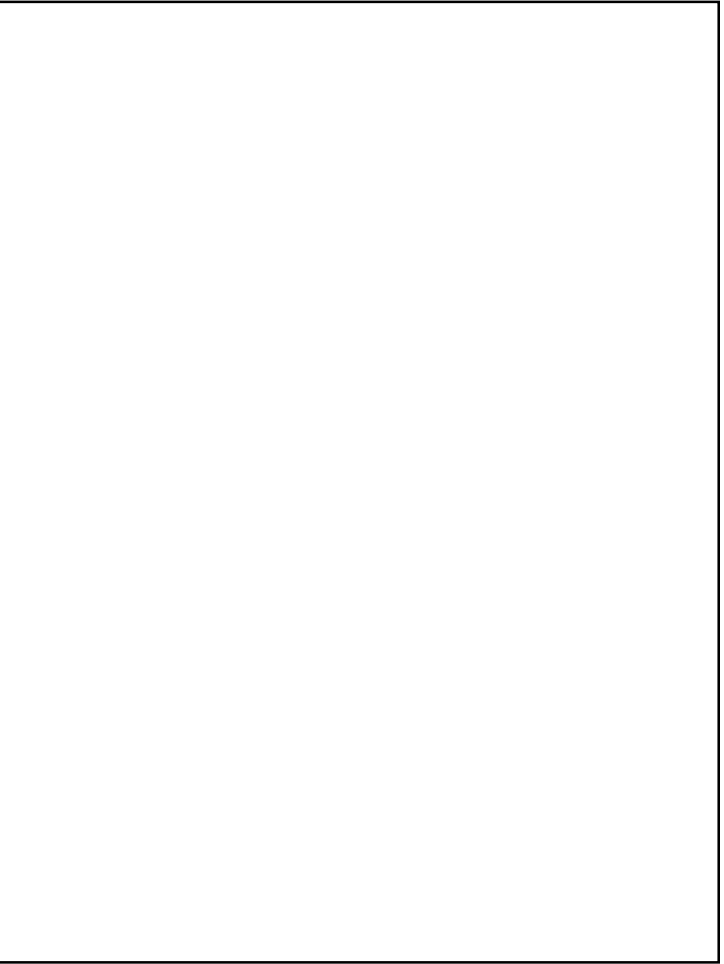
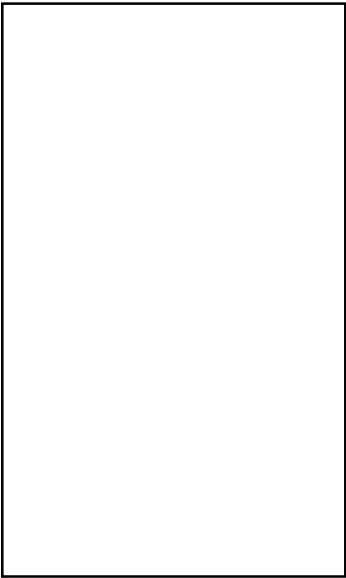
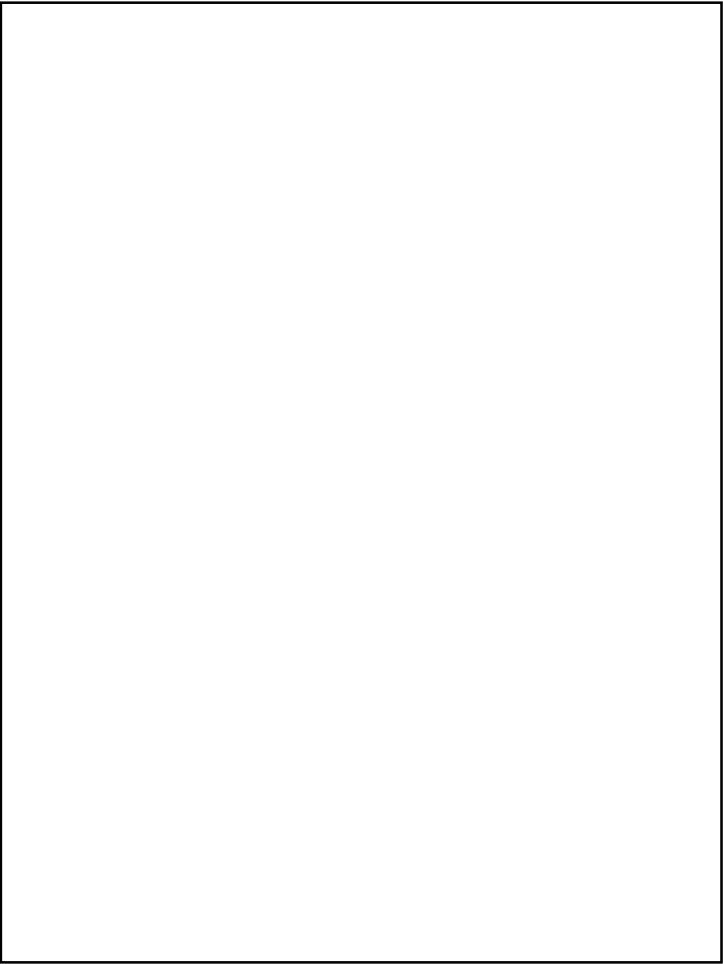
**Fighter/bomber Distin-
guished Graduate:**
2nd Lt. Aaron Steffanus

**Outstanding Officer
of Class 05-11:**
Capt. Derek Fischer

**Outstanding 2nd Lieuten-
ant Award:**
2nd Lt. Aaron Steffanus

**Airlift/tanker Distingui-
shed Graduate:**
2nd Lt. Jonathan Flowers

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for the latest
news, pictures
and more from
around the
Air Force.*



Airman returns from deployment, back to motherhood

By Senior Airman
Stacia Zachary
43rd Airlift Wing
public affairs

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. (AFPN) -- Many parents dread the thought of their children leaving the nest, and some are portrayed as a bit crazed about their children leaving for the first time. Now imagine if it was not the children leaving the nest, but the parent. In today's diversified military of frequent deployments, more and more mothers and fathers are being called away from home and families. That was the case with Lt. Col. Polly Montgomery, the 41st Airlift Squadron commander and mother of three. When Colonel Montgomery

got tasked with a 120-day deployment, she said a temporary goodbye to her family with the goal of still being an active mother to her children while away. "It's very hard emotionally to leave knowing that the next time you see your children, they will have grown into richer individuals," she said. "As a mother ... the only real way of accepting this long absence is to continue to be a strong presence in (the children's) lives through any means available, no matter the distance or difficulty." For Colonel Montgomery, those means were through e-mails, letters, packages and phone calls home. "My oldest, Charlie (6), would make it his job to read all my letters; and when I called, we would just talk

about those letters," Colonel Montgomery said. In one particular instance, the colonel wrote to her son about the dining facilities and how she went about getting her meals. "Knowing what his mommy was doing was important to Charlie," she said. "That was one way I was able to stay in contact with my children and maintain a very personal and comfortable rapport. I did that by staying involved." Since one of her children was learning yoga in school, Colonel Montgomery took classes in yoga over the Internet to keep another thing in common with her family. "You need to make sure you stay caught up with them; that is the most important thing I have learned," she said. While Colonel Montgom-

ery was deployed, she maintained her motherly instincts by providing for her troops. "It was never easy leaving my children; but when I got to the desert, I realized I had a whole new family to learn about, guide and support," she said. Once her 120 days were up and Colonel Montgomery began packing her gear, she also had to realign her focus for life at home. "Seeing my children was such a wonderfully overpowering moment for me," she said. "All of a sudden I have these little grown-up individuals, and I (was) a little shocked they (had) grown so much. My little girl learned how to talk while I was gone, and I was amazed by her little voice." The colonel thought she was prepared to ease back into

being an active and present mother. After the initial homecoming, however, the world of motherhood sped into high gear almost immediately. "It's a quick transition, and there's no easing back into being a full-time mommy," Colonel Montgomery said. "You can't just take on things slowly, I learned. Within the first day, I was cooking dinner, doing laundry and being called on by children for help as if I had never left." But she did leave. For other parents in the military who may face the same situation as Colonel Montgomery, she offers one bit of advice: "You can never make up for lost time, and you should never try. Allow yourself to continue and make the most out of the time you have in the meantime."

Weapon perfection...

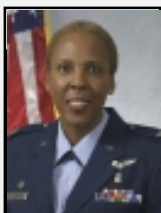
Tech. Sgt. Craig Haefner installs a heat shield on the barrel of an M-240B general purpose machine gun at a forward-deployed location. The M-240B uses a 7.62 mm cartridge and has a cyclic firing rate of 650 to 950 rounds per minute. Sergeant Haefner is the non-commissioned officer in charge of the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron armory and is deployed from Dyess Air Force Base.



Photo by Master Sgt. Al Gerloff

Laughlin Family Support Center

Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
298-5620



What's up Doc?

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes
47th Medical Group
commander

Question: Is there anyway your phone-in refill line could be programmed to allow a different sponsor's social security number be entered for multiple prescription call ins? Presently, military married to military who call in for one

sponsor have to hang up and redial for a dependent with a different sponsor's social security number.

Could the phone-in refill line be programmed to accept different refills for multiple sponsors?

Answer: Thank you for your feedback! Our pharmacist, Maj. Pohler states: I agree, it would be a great idea, though I do not believe it is possible to change that part of the system.

The sponsor's last four of the social security number is what AudioCare (the computer system that administers call in refills) uses as part of a verification of the prescription number entered is for the patient intended.

I have an alternative to offer, since

the system is not capable of storing multiple IDs.

When finished entering all prescription numbers for one patient, at the point where the options are to enter another prescription number or hang up; do not hang up, press the “#” key (though not prompted as an option).

You will be taken back to the point of entering the sponsor's last four again, at which point you can enter prescription numbers for a different patient with a different sponsor/last four.

We have another exciting enhancement on the horizon, hopefully this summer AudioCare will begin offering a Web-based interactive refill request over the internet.

This should allow you to see your entire active prescription profile and request refills from the website, and perhaps even more services will be offered (printing your profile, etc).

Thanks for your question!

Please don't hesitate to discuss with your primary care manager if you have any additional questions.

You can contact our Family Care provider on call for advice and authorization for emergency care from 4:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Friday, weekends and holidays at 703-6199.

You may contact Colonel Torres-Reyes at laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil if you have a What's Up Doc? question.

Internet-based health care can degrade mission readiness

By 2nd Lt. Ashley Conner
22nd Air Refueling Wing
public affairs

MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, Kan. -- The Internet can be used to do research, download music and even shop for cars. However, Airmen should use caution before using the Internet as a means for receiving medical treatment, officials said.

Many Airmen are taking advantage of the increasing number of Internet physician and pharmaceutical services to seek medical treatment, Air Force officials said. However, care rendered outside the built-in safeguards inherent in the military health system may have serious effects on safe operations and personnel readiness.

The risks include receiving medications without an appropriate medical evaluation, questionable credibility and credentialing of online physicians overseeing the prescribing process, and no access to the customer's healthcare records to screen for medication interactions and other illnesses.

“If an Airman decides to seek treatment or medications from an online physician, (he or she is) taking a giant risk because that physician doesn't have access to the Airman's medical history, and the non-face-to-face, doctor-to-patient interaction can

lead to major misdiagnosis,” said Lt. Col. Kenneth McDonnell, professional services chief for Air Mobility Command's surgeon general.

That treatment, he said, also can affect the mission.

“If an individual has to be hospitalized for an extended period of time (because of) drug interactions or serious illness resulting from Internet prescriptions, it can affect how the Air Force as a whole gets the mission done,” McDonnell said.

In one such case, a deployed person was taking medication not prescribed by a military physician or an approved healthcare provider, he said.

“The medication made the individual extremely sensitive to the extreme heat, and, therefore, the individual had to be removed from the theater,” he said.

Many service members are choosing to use online

services even though they are recipients of health care at basically no charge, officials said. This concerns military health-care officials.

“Because there are certain medical services, such as herbal supplements, that the Air Force doesn't provide or (isn't) authorized to provide under Tricare, members may choose to go outside the military health system, regardless of the cost,” McDonnell said. “Individuals may also seek treatment for illnesses they feel could hurt their career if they were treated by an Air Force physician.

“The decision is risky, and it could cost them their life,” he said.

Airmen are responsible for reporting any medical treatment received through any civilian source, be it Internet physician and pharmacy services or other avenues, according to Air Force Instructions 48-123, “Medical Ex-

aminations and Standards;” 36-2104, “Nuclear Weapons Personnel Reliability Program;” and 41-210, “Patient Administration Functions.”

They must notify military health officials within three days of treatment, said Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Joseph E. Kelley, assistant surgeon general of the Air Force surgeon general's health-care operations.

Entries reflecting downtown medical treatment that are placed in an Airman's medical records ensure future healthcare providers have a complete medical history from which to provide accurate diagnosis and treatment.

The average Airman may not associate Internet services with “getting care downtown,” and, therefore, may not provide the treatment information to his or her primary care manager, Kelley said.

At this time, there are no hard numbers to determine how many Airmen use the Internet to obtain prescriptions or medical advice, but “the few incidents we've seen lead us to believe there probably are more,” McDonnell said.

For that reason, interim changes to Air Force instructions will be drafted to address the issue, officials said.

When in doubt about medical advice or care and treatment, Airmen can consult their local military medical provider.



Air Force changes fitness test criteria

By Staff Sgt.
Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- Air Force officials are making a few changes to the physical fitness test used to assess the fitness of Airmen.

In January 2004, the Air Force underwent a major change in the way it looked at fitness. As part of the Fit to Fight program, the service adopted a more stringent physical fitness assessment that measures aerobic fitness, physical strength/endurance and body composition.

Now, 18 months into the program, senior leaders are ready to tweak the assessment to make it even better, said Lt. Gen. (Dr.) George Peach Taylor Jr., Air Force surgeon general.

"We have gotten together a group of scientists and done surveys asking folks if they like the assessment and are there issues with it," Dr. Taylor said. "This last year we brought an update to Corona and are now in the middle of updating a few changes to the Air Force instruction that defines the fitness evaluation."

Updates to AFI 10-248 will include a change in how body composition is measured, a new table for the running portion of the test that takes into account the runner's elevation, and a change in the number of days an Airman must wait before retesting after having scored

in the marginal category.

Under the original fitness evaluation, body composition scores were based on abdominal circumference only. The updated AFI will now direct that body composition also be measured using body mass index.

BMI is calculated by dividing weight in pounds by height in inches squared, and multiplying the result by 703. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, those with a BMI between 18.5 and 24.9 are considered to be normal. Those with a BMI of 25 or above are considered overweight.

Under the updated AFI, Airmen with a BMI of less than 25 will earn the full 30 points for body composition. For Airmen who score a BMI 25 and above, Dr. Taylor said the results of the waist measurement would be used to calculate their test score.

That will still be an important measure of their health," he said. "Waist measure is closely related to increased risk for metabolic syndrome, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. Fat distribution is the critical indicator, as opposed to weight."

For those who score marginal, between 70 and 74.9 points, the Air Force plans to correct the time to retest at 90 days; currently, retest for marginal category is 180 days. This will be consistent with the retest time for poor scores, those less than 70.

Changes to the AFI will

also include adjustment for those at high-altitude installations. This applies to those at installations with an elevation of 5,000 feet or greater, Dr. Taylor said.

"We'll use the formula for altitude calculations recommended by the National Collegiate Athletic Association," he said.

The Air Force continues to look at ways to improve the fitness evaluation and remains committed to the Fit to Fight program, Dr. Taylor said, because the program has proven successful.

"Participation at fitness centers is up 30 percent now," he said. "And if you go to the field, like in Iraq or Afghanistan, you will find a continued focus on health."

The assessment is not the focus of the fitness program, but a tool to assess the commander's fitness training program.

I want to make very clear

that my focus is not on passing a fitness test once a year," said Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, in his Oct. 17, 2003, Chief's Sight Picture. "More important, we are changing the culture of the Air Force. This is about our preparedness to deploy and fight. It's about warriors. It is about instilling an expectation that makes fitness a daily standard — an essential part of your service."

Dr. Taylor said he hopes the changes to the AFI will be made by late August or early September.

XL
Fitness
Center
Hours
298-5251

Monday - Thursday:
5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Friday:
5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday-
Sunday:
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

2X4